

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02300 191228 Z

47

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 EB-11 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /065 W

----- 110411

P R 191000 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1337

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBWSY BONN

RUFHBSAMEMBASSY BRUSELS 3375

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2300

DEPT PASS COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: N/

TAGS: BGEN, ETRD

SUBJECT: AMERICAN HOIST AND CRANE CO., ST. PAUL, MINN.

1. AMERICAN HOIST AND CRANE COMPANY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA AND ITS DUTCH IMPORTER HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE REGARDING TARIFF CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM THEY HAVING WITH DUTCH CUSTOMS ON CRAWLER LIFTING CRANES, I. E. TRACK- LAYING CRANES USED FOR LIFTING. FIRM FEELS CLASSIFICATION SHOULD BE 84. 22- B-1 A, NOW CHARGING A 5.5 PERCENT TARIFF RATE. IMPORTER STATES THIS CLASSIFICATION USED UNTIL 1969 AT WHICH TIME DUTCH CUSTOMS BEGAN CLASSIFYING THEM UNDER 84. 23-1 B.2, NOW 11 PERCENT, ON PREMISE THAT CRANES, BY ADDING ATTACHMENTS, COULD ALSO BE USED AS CRAWLER DRAG- LINES, I. E. EARTH EXCAVATORS. ACCORDING IMPORTER THIS IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE BUT HIGHLY UNLIKELY SINCE CRAWLER LIFTING CRANES EVEN WITHOUT ATTACHMENTS ARE 15-20 PERCENT MORE EXPENSIVE THAN DRAGLINES. ALSO, ADDITION OF ATTACHMENTS INCREASES COST SUBSTANTIALLY AND RESULTS IN A UNIT HAVING A CAPACITY 0-40 PERCENT BELOW THAT OF THE LOWER-
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PAGE 02 THE HA 02300 191228 Z

PRICED DRAGLINE. IMPORTER (WHO BRINGS CRANES INTO ROTTERDWM FOR FINAL PREPARATION PRIOR TO DELIVERY TO BUYERS IN ITS SALES TERRITORY OF NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, WEST GERMANY AND LUXEMBOURG KNOWS OF NO INSTANCE IN WHICH A BUYER HAS EVER CONVERTED CRANES OF TYPES IN QUESTION TO DRAGLINE. NOTWITHSTANDING, DUTCH CUSTOMS IN APRIL 1971 REJECTED INITIAL APPEAL AND CASE IS NOW BEFORE GON BOARD OF TARIFFS WITH DECISION EXPECTED VERY SHORTLY.

2. FOR COMMERCE AND GENEVA: WOULD APPGECIATE SUMMARY BY CABLE OF EEC- S BINDINGS OR UNDERSTANDINGS ON 84.22 AND 84.23 THAT MIGHT BE RELEVANT AND ANY GUIDANCE YOU CAN OFFER FOR HANDLING CASE HERE.

3. FOR BONN, PARIS AND ROME: IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD ASCERTAIN THROUGH TRADE SOURCES HOW CRAWLER LIFTING CRANES WITH EARTHMOVING POTENTIAL ARE CLASSIFIED IN YOUR COUNTRIES.
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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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